



## The Upstate Shakespeare Festival Opens Its 2003 Season!

South Carolina's Upstate Shakespeare Festival opens its 2003 Season with William Shakespeare's **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** on Wednesday June 4. Performance dates are: June 4-8, June 11-14, June 19-22 and June 27-29. All Performances start at 7 pm in Greenville's Cleveland Park.

Shakespeare's **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** is the romantic comedy of two sets of lovers trying to overcome varying obstacles in the way to true love. Young officer, Claudio must overcome lies, jealousy, intrigue, immaturity, and his own thick-headedness to win the hand of the beautiful Hero. On the other hand, Benedick and Beatrice don't have as many obstacles; they have only themselves to overcome. Talk about your insurmountable tasks! Throw into the mix sailors just returned from the war, bawdy maids, mischievous scoundrels, a troupe of inept shore police, as well as two confused uncles; and you've got one of Shakespeare's most beloved romantic comedies! ...and what about Constable Dogberry and his fetching assistant Verges?

The company of **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** includes actors from all over the Upstate of South Carolina: Greenville, Spartanburg, Newberry, Anderson, Clemson, Pendleton and Simpsonville are all represented. Additionally, we have performers from New York, Oregon, Illinois and Florida appearing. Artistic Director John Fagan is directing the play.

The Upstate Shakespeare Festival, now in its ninth Season, is the Upstate's Free Shakespeare in the Park Festival. Presented by Metro Beat, the Greenville Parks and Recreation and The Warehouse Theatre, the Festival gives local theatre artists the opportunity to work with theatre professionals in producing the plays of William Shakespeare for the audiences of the Upstate and beyond. In years past, we have presented such works as **A Midsummer Night's Dream** as a rave, **The Tempest** with a female Prospero and 30-foot puppets, **The Two Gentlemen of Verona** as a Beach Party, and **The Taming of the Shrew** as a western. As one might see, we attempt to tell Shakespeare's stories in as contemporary manner as he first presented them.

This year, the Festival will be holding all performances in Cleveland Park. We have moved here from our home in The Reedy River Falls Park due to the re-landscaping that is occurring in that park. We are hoping to be able to return to Reedy River Falls Park for our Tenth Season and to a permanent stage and newly landscaped lawn. Audiences can enter Cleveland Park from Washington Street and can follow our sunburst signs to the stage as well as parking. We are encouraging audiences to arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 pm in order to secure the better locations on the lawn for seating. They are also encouraged to bring picnics, blankets, lawn chairs and bug spray.